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Peacebuilding Commission

Tenth session
Organizational Committee

Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 3 February 2016, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Skoog ..... (Sweden)
later: Mr. Kamau ..... (Kenya)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda (PBC/10/OC/1)

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

Draft report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its ninth session (PBC/9/OC/L.1)

2. **The Chair** recalled that the draft report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its ninth session (PBC/9/OC/L.1) had been provisionally approved by the Organizational Committee during informal consultations, pending its translation into all United Nations official languages. He noted that chapter III of the report set out the framework for the Commission's workplan in 2016 and that the report would be considered by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

3. *The draft report was adopted.*

Election of officers

4. **The Chair** said that, in view of prior consultations among regional groups and members of the Organizational Committee, it was his understanding that the Committee was prepared to elect the new Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission.

5. *Kenya was elected Chair by acclamation for a term ending on 31 December 2016.*

6. **The Chair** said that the Group of Western European and Other States had endorsed Sweden for the position of Vice-Chair of the Commission for its tenth session. It was his understanding that Sweden, in its capacity as Vice-Chair of the Commission, would preside over the Liberia configuration.

7. *Sweden was elected Vice-Chair by acclamation for a term ending on 31 December 2016.*

8. **The Chair** said that the Group of Asia-Pacific States had endorsed the Republic of Korea for the position of Vice-Chair of the Commission for its tenth session. It was his understanding that the Republic of Korea, in its capacity as Vice-Chair of the Commission, would lead discussions of the Working Group on Lessons Learned.

9. *The Republic of Korea was elected Vice-Chair by acclamation for a term ending on 31 December 2016.*

10. *Switzerland was re-elected as Chair of the Burundi configuration; Morocco was re-elected as Chair of the Central African Republic configuration; Luxembourg was re-elected as Chair of the Guinea configuration; Canada was re-elected as Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration; and Brazil was re-elected as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration.*

Statement by the outgoing Chair

11. **The Chair** said that, at a time when the global landscape was shifting and the Organization's mandate to protect peace was severely challenged, the Commission had a fundamental role to play in supporting the long-term and comprehensive approaches that would lead to lasting peace. It was increasingly obvious that military or security responses to conflict, although they sometimes served a specific purpose, could never build peace in the long run; that would only be achieved by addressing the root causes of conflict, investing in socioeconomic development and building national capacities. Sweden would continue to champion those issues in the future, since it strongly believed that sustaining peace was at the core of the Organization's mission.

12. During his delegation's term as Chair, which had coincided with the first phase of the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, his aim had been for the Organizational Committee to adopt more transparent and strategic working methods, including a more flexible agenda and greater inclusivity; to improve its partnerships with regional and subregional organizations; to highlight peacebuilding needs in Ebola recovery efforts; and to take forward the recommendations of the peacebuilding review. Those objectives had been achieved. In particular, regional and country-specific discussions had been convened concerning situations outside the Commission's regular agenda, including the peace process in Papua New Guinea, the elections in Burkina Faso and financing for peacebuilding in Somalia. In order to draw attention to peacebuilding needs in the context of Ebola recovery efforts, he had undertaken a trip to West Africa and had participated in the spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group on the Ebola situation. He had also chaired an informal meeting of the Organizational Committee on ways to better incorporate the perspectives of young people in peacebuilding activities, and had convened a regional discussion on peacebuilding trends and threats in

West Africa, at which the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs had been invited to identify conflict prevention priorities. Lastly, during several briefings of the Security Council, he had consistently argued for enhanced efforts to build and sustain peace, and better capacity to prevent any lapse or relapse into conflict, as well as underscoring the need to address root causes. He had insisted that building peace required a sustained and long-term engagement and had urged the Security Council to optimize its use of the Commission in that regard.

13. He urged the incoming Chair and the Commission as a whole to keep evolving and adopting new approaches during the tenth session. The Commission was a flexible body and its members had a duty to make it as effective as possible by developing appropriate working methods. In particular, regional approaches should be strengthened, since peacebuilding at the national level was influenced by regional developments. The Commission should build on the work of previous sessions and use the momentum from both the peacebuilding review and the review of United Nations peace operations to deepen and institutionalize its cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, including in its country-specific work. In particular, it should forge better links with the peacebuilding and conflict prevention work performed by the African Union regional economic communities. The Commission was also well placed to listen to and incorporate local perspectives into its peacebuilding work.

14. It was imperative for the United Nations system to strengthen its ability to prevent conflicts from occurring. The Commission should be part of those efforts and should also better utilize its mandate to interact with and draw on the expertise of a wide range of actors. In that regard, its strategy for mainstreaming a gender perspective in its country-specific engagement would help it to systematize its work on gender issues and put the empowerment of women at the core of its operations. It should also build on successful work in the area of youth, peace and security to champion youth participation for sustainable peace.

15. *Mr. Kamau (Kenya) took the Chair.*

Statement by the incoming Chair

16. **The Chair** said he agreed with the outgoing Chair about the importance of engaging youth in peacebuilding efforts, since young people who had lost hope and could no longer find a reason to be part of the status quo were one of the main drivers of violence around the world. He congratulated Sweden for the important work that it had done as Chair in 2015 and welcomed the fact that it would serve as Vice-Chair in 2016. In view of the Commission's workload and the nature of its work, it should perhaps consider appointing its Chair for a two-year term; however, if that was not possible, the Chair in a given year should always assume the position of Vice-Chair the following year to ensure continuity.

17. The year 2016 would be an important one for the Commission. The review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture would soon be concluded, affording the Commission an opportunity to consolidate its raison d'être in an increasingly interdependent world characterized by unique and evolving challenges that must be tackled collectively. The important issues identified in the forward agenda set out in the Commission's report on its ninth session would form part of its work in 2016. He had also identified a number of other priorities that would guide the Commission's work, as set out in the letter of intent that he had sent to the members of the Organizational Committee on 21 January 2016. First, there was an urgent need to study and take forward the outcomes of the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, the review conducted by the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations and the high-level review of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). In that regard, the Commission would need to review its working methods and rules of procedure to deepen its impact. Second, it would be important to operationalize the links between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Commission's work, especially in relation to Sustainable Development Goal 16 on the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies, the provision of access to justice for all, and the building of effective, accountable institutions. He would ensure that the Commission did not lose sight of the fact that peace was not an abstract or isolated activity but an integrated component of political, social, economic and environmental actions.

18. The Commission would also focus on strengthening its bridging role through coordinated and sustained engagement with the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social

Council, in order to enhance the collective impact of peacebuilding in the world. More predictable and sustainable financing for peacebuilding was also required; in that regard, the Commission would improve its capability to mobilize resources by vigorously seeking funding for its work and prioritizing relations with international financial institutions, in particular the World Bank and the African Development Bank. He called on Member States to step up their contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund; however, the Commission must also recognize that success in its work was what would attract more resources and support for its efforts.

19. Bearing in mind that peacebuilding included the prevention of conflict, the Commission would reach out to the Secretary-General and to the key United Nations organizations and agencies working on conflict prevention and governance to help marshal resources and build partnerships. It would also seek to identify opportunities in the mandates of existing peacebuilding missions and special political missions where peacebuilding and related governance and human rights initiatives could be integrated and enhanced to lower the threat of conflict.

20. To be more effective, the Commission should strengthen its country-specific work, including by going beyond the current country configurations. It must find the political and financial will to respond to the many other situations around the world that were calling out for its engagement. To that end, it would need to work closely with regional organizations, including the African Union and the League of Arab States, to identify, systematize and prioritize areas of peacebuilding work. It should also continue working with civil society organizations and other non-State actors as appropriate, particularly in the promotion of inclusive societies, governance and human rights.

21. In order to enhance its impact, the Commission should promote greater understanding of its work not only through the performance of its mandate but also through an enhanced communication strategy to effectively explain its peacebuilding initiatives to its donors, its partners within and outside the United Nations, and the countries and local communities on its agenda so as to promote co-ownership and goodwill.

22. At the regional discussion on peacebuilding trends and threats in West Africa, held on 18 January 2016, participants had identified a number of challenges that the Commission should address in the first half of 2016. With the support of Member States, he therefore intended to convene three meetings to elaborate policy recommendations on the subregional dimension of peacebuilding; the economic recovery from the Ebola outbreak; and youth, peace and security, respectively. He would then take those policy discussions to the country level, bringing together relevant stakeholders from the region and helping to mobilize political support and resources. At a broader level, he also intended to convene similar discussions on other topics relevant to peacebuilding, such as the 2030 Agenda, institution-building and gender, and to replicate the discussions on West Africa in the Commission's work in other regions, at both the regional and the country levels. In order to implement that ambitious agenda, he would need to count on the collective work of all members of the Commission.

23. The Commission must look beyond the mechanics and administrative challenges of managing its work and provide thought leadership on peace and peace action. There were literally tens of millions of people, mostly women and children, who desperately needed the Commission to succeed; for their sake, failure was not an option.

Workplan of the Peacebuilding Commission

24. **The Chair** said that, according to paragraph 64 of the Commission's draft report on its ninth session (PBC/9/OC/L.1), the Commission was expected to explore improvements in certain aspects of its working methods that would enhance the clarity of its objectives and the predictability of its calendar and activities. The draft report contained specific actions in that regard for the Organizational Committee and for the country-specific configurations. Commission members had received a proposed workplan for the Organizational Committee and the planned activities of the Chair to take forward the actions stipulated in the forward agenda. He took it that the Committee provisionally approved the proposed workplan.

25. *It was so decided.*

26. **The Chair**, setting out a number of peacebuilding priorities that should be addressed by the Commission, said that, in Burkina Faso, the Commission had a role to play in supporting the consolidation of democratic gains and addressing core peacebuilding challenges that were at the root of the

popular uprising, including the socioeconomic engagement of youth, as well as the threat of youth radicalization and terrorism. He invited the Commission to engage in a policy dialogue with the Government of that country. In Burundi, the Commission should engage stakeholders in a sustainable dialogue process in order to resolve the current political crisis and end the violence. It should also engage the Government and its main financial and development partners in a policy dialogue to address the economic risks of the current crisis and achieve the resumption of full development cooperation. In the Central African Republic, the Commission needed to support regional engagement in the post-transition period, foster coherence, and support the new authorities through the reinforcement of policies aimed at strengthening the State's capacities. In Guinea, the Commission should help to sustain the democratic gains following the presidential elections and continue to support the national reconciliation agenda. In Guinea-Bissau, it should bring together regional actors, financial partners and other relevant stakeholders to support the Government in the implementation of the "Terra Ranka" development programme. In Liberia, it should continue to work with key partners to ensure a successful transition as the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) was drawn down, while in Sierra Leone, it should provide political support for key peacebuilding priorities such as national dialogue, the constitutional review process, forthcoming elections, governance, public sector reform, and youth employment and empowerment, in accordance with the national priority plan. Lastly, following the informal meeting held in November 2015 on financing for peacebuilding in Somalia, the Commission should convene policy discussions with relevant partners to consider how the coherent financing approach adopted there could be applied in other countries.

27. **Mr. Fernandez-Taranco** (Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support) said that, during the Swedish delegation's term as Chair, the Commission had been able to implement more flexible working methods and had convened a number of important meetings, demonstrating how a more flexible Commission could effectively address a broader range of country-specific and cross-cutting issues. He also acknowledged the role of Sweden in developing important initiatives such as the gender strategy, and welcomed the Commission's decision to elect two Vice-Chairs pursuant to its rules of procedure, since that strengthened its leadership.

28. Kenya was assuming the Chair at a critical time, when the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture was reaching its final stages and expectations of a more effective Commission were high. It was important for Commission members to engage fully in the review process and associated negotiations, and to act on its recommendations once they had been concluded. The Chair's letter of intent also highlighted important priorities, especially in relation to the need to ensure more predictable financing and to increase contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund, which was widely recognized among Member States, the United Nations and its key partners as a rapid, catalytic, flexible, procedurally light and risk-taking investor of first resort in efforts to sustain peace. The Fund was a critical tool for bringing greater coherence to the United Nations system; however, it needed to be capitalized and strengthened in order to perform that function.

29. He was confident that under the leadership of Kenya, the Commission would serve as a unique platform for convening relevant actors and leading to the elaboration of policy recommendations. In that regard, it was imperative for the Commission to reach out and engage partners across the spectrum of actors within and outside the United Nations, especially civil society.

30. The topics contained in the Commission's forward agenda, including the need for follow-up to the 2015 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, the emphasis on integrating regional and gender perspectives, and the focus on improving the Commission's advisory function with respect to the Security Council, were all highly significant. The Commission must also build on the progress made in 2015 towards improving its working methods. The Peacebuilding Support Office remained committed to providing continuous support to the Commission, including by ensuring the support of senior management and the practical engagement of relevant United Nations system entities. It welcomed the provisional workplan, which would help facilitate the active engagement of Member States in supporting the Commission's objectives throughout 2016.

31. **The Chair** said that he would welcome feedback from the members of the Commission on the workplan,

and in particular the direction of the Commission's work.

32. **Mr. Skoog** (Sweden), Vice-Chair, said that his delegation fully supported the Commission's workplan. It also supported the ambitious agenda presented in the incoming Chair's statement and particularly appreciated the focus on outcomes, impact and the added value of the Commission, rather than on processes.

33. **Mr. Oh** Joon (Republic of Korea), Vice-Chair, said that, as Chair of the Working Group on Lessons Learned, he would build upon the efforts undertaken during the Japanese delegation's term as Chair to institutionalize the function of the Working Group in order to strengthen United Nations peacebuilding efforts.

34. The ongoing review of the peacebuilding architecture offered an opportunity to make the Peacebuilding Commission a more integral part of the United Nations system. Similarly, the 2030 Agenda provided the Commission with an important mandate to promote peaceful and inclusive societies in cooperation with actors from within and outside the system.

35. **Mr. Skoog** (Sweden), Vice-Chair, speaking as the Chair of the Liberia configuration, said that a successful technical-level mission had recently been conducted in Liberia with the aim of preparing for the revision of the statement of mutual commitment. The Government had engaged well with the mission, and a first draft of the new statement of mutual commitment, which built on discussions with a wide range of stakeholders in Monrovia, would soon be shared with the members of the Liberia configuration, together with an ambitious calendar of work based on the new statement. The Commission was stepping up its activities in Liberia and would have an increasingly important role to play in 2016 and 2017, as the country prepared for the drawdown of UNMIL and the forthcoming elections.

36. **Mr. de Aguiar Patriota** (Brazil) said that, as a bridging mechanism between the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council, the Commission had a key role to play in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, particularly Goal 16, in the countries on its agenda, with the understanding that Goal 16 applied to developed and developing countries alike. Efforts should be made to ensure more frequent variation in the Chair appointments for country-specific configurations, perhaps through the implementation of a rotation system.

37. Speaking as the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration, he said that, on several occasions, the authorities of Guinea-Bissau had explicitly recognized the stabilizing role of the Commission in their country. The current political impasse in Guinea-Bissau had not caused a relapse into conflict, thanks in part to the restraint exercised by the military and the effective role of the judicial system. Those factors had contributed to a more positive outlook than in recent years, although much remained to be done to return the country to the stability predating the June 2015 governance crisis. To that end, the Guinea-Bissau configuration would work closely with all partners, including regional actors such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union, to foster international support and promote national ownership of peacebuilding strategies, especially in the economic sphere, namely through the implementation of the Terra Ranka development programme.

38. In 2016, he would convene configuration meetings on a formal and informal basis with the support of the Peacebuilding Support Office and in consultation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Guinea-Bissau, as appropriate. In addition, he would continue to travel to Guinea-Bissau in coordination with international partners, particularly those most closely engaged with the country, including the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and the European Union. Lastly, he planned to attend a meeting of African leaders, possibly in addition to a meeting of the International Contact Group on Guinea-Bissau, to expand the scope of dialogue and cooperation between ECOWAS and the Government of Guinea-Bissau. He would work closely with former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, recently appointed as a special envoy to Guinea-Bissau, in that connection.

39. Future peacebuilding efforts in Guinea-Bissau must focus on promoting security sector reform, inclusive national dialogue at the political level and the role of civil society, particularly women and youth, in the peacebuilding process. In addition, he looked forward to engaging with Commission members that were members of the Security Council to strengthen

cooperation between the Council and the Commission, particularly with respect to configuration countries.

40. **Mr. Salimi** (Morocco) said that the Commission's workplan would ensure greater transparency and predictability with regard to its activities and reflected an effective balance between the need to capitalize on the Commission's achievements and the need to identify new areas for action.

41. Speaking as the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration, he said that, in 2016, that configuration would continue to focus on creating an enabling environment for economic development, national reconciliation and stability in the country. In particular, in cooperation with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and the Security Council, the configuration would aim to ensure ongoing regional commitment during the post-transition period, in collaboration with the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic; to participate in identifying priorities for strengthening peacebuilding and to provide ongoing assistance to post-transition authorities by promoting policies aimed at strengthening State capacities, including through the implementation of a draft political compact; to support the work of the reference group on the rule of law in the Central African Republic to ensure the establishment of the Special Criminal Court; and to ensure sustainable and predictable financing for peacebuilding efforts by improving coherence and coordination among partners.

42. Between February and May 2016, the configuration would organize a number of events, including an expert-level meeting on the draft political compact, in collaboration with think tanks focusing on the Central African Republic; an informal meeting of experts from the reference group on the rule of law in the Central African Republic; and a meeting on the draft compact at the ambassadorial level. In addition, before the post-transition authorities were sworn in, the Chair of the configuration would travel to Bangui to meet with the outgoing authorities, the incoming President and Prime Minister and other key political figures in the Central African Republic to convey the support of the international community, particularly with a view to negotiating a political pact that would serve as a strategic framework for the Organization's future engagement in the country. He would also meet with regional representatives of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) in Libreville to discuss the role of regional actors during the post-transition phase. The configuration would also hold an informal meeting at the ambassadorial level with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and MINUSCA, and a statement by the configuration would be delivered before the Security Council. Lastly, in collaboration with the Chair of the Commission, the configuration would organize an informal meeting of the Organizational Committee on the regional dimension of its work, with the participation of representatives of ECCAS and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA.

43. **Mr. Bonser** (Canada) commended the flexible working methods adopted by the outgoing Chair, as well as his efforts to address key geographic and thematic issues, particularly in the context of the informal meeting of the Organizational Committee on youth and peacebuilding. He also welcomed the outgoing Chair's focus on strengthening the link between the work of country-specific configurations and that of the Organizational Committee; his emphasis on a regional approach to peacebuilding, which had proved particularly effective in responding to the Ebola crisis; and his development of the Commission's gender strategy, which should be pursued in 2016. In addition, Canada supported the incoming Chair's proposal to operationalize links between the Commission and the 2030 Agenda, bearing in mind the universal applicability of the Agenda, and to strengthen cooperation between the Commission and peacebuilding partners.

44. In early 2016, the incoming Permanent Representative of Canada, in his capacity as the Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration, would travel to Sierra Leone with a mission of technical experts. The future work of the Sierra Leone configuration would be guided by the needs and gaps identified by the country's Government with reference to the national priority plan, and would focus on respect for diversity and pluralism and prioritization of the needs of vulnerable groups. The configuration would focus specifically on promoting youth empowerment, including economic empowerment, the empowerment

of women, and inclusive national dialogues and the reforms required for their operationalization, a critical priority in the period prior to the upcoming elections in Sierra Leone.

45. **Mr. Flies** (Luxembourg) said that Luxembourg, as the Chair of the Guinea configuration, looked forward to addressing the priority areas identified by the incoming Chair and would soon present a programme of work outlining the configuration's specific priorities for 2016.

46. **Mr. Lauber** (Switzerland), speaking as the Chair of the Burundi configuration, said that he welcomed the incoming Chair's results-based approach to the country-specific work of the Commission. In addition to focusing on the advancement of political dialogue and the economic situation in Burundi, the Burundi configuration would continue to address challenges relating to security, violence and the human rights situation on the ground.

47. The configuration would hold a meeting in February 2016, to be followed by a visit to Bujumbura and other capitals in the region to discuss the regional and subregional dimensions of its work. Other areas for action would be determined based on the development of the situation in the country.

48. **The Chair** said that, in line with its commitment to strengthening the institutional and practical links between the Organizational Committee and the Commission's country-specific work, the Commission would reconvene later in 2016 to take stock of progress made and challenges requiring collective action in the area of peacebuilding, including in configuration countries.

49. **Mr. Raja Zaib Shah** (Malaysia) noted with satisfaction the innovations in the working methods of the Commission during its ninth session, as evidenced by its discussions on Somalia and Burkina Faso and the structured workplan of the Organizational Committee. The Commission's report (PBC/9/OC/L.1) would help guide its future efforts to support countries undergoing political transition.

50. He outlined a number of the conclusions drawn from the informal interactive dialogue and periodic stocktaking exercise organized by Malaysia in 2015 in its capacity as coordinator of the periodic stocktaking exercise of the Commission's advisory function with respect to and the modality of interaction with the Security Council. Participants had identified the need for intensified cooperation with the Security Council with respect to peacebuilding priorities during the design of missions' mandates and drawdown phases. They had also suggested that the Commission should alert the Council, in a timely manner, to possible lapses and relapses into conflict, given the long-term nature of peacebuilding, and should facilitate conflict prevention by bringing peacebuilding-related priorities to the Council's attention and providing an inclusive platform for de-escalation efforts. It had also been suggested that the Commission could complement the Council's work by focusing on issues not included on its agenda.

51. With regard to the Commission's country-specific work, participants had underscored the effectiveness of early intervention and cooperation with regional organizations and other stakeholders in promoting conflict resolution in Guinea-Bissau. They had also welcomed the useful inputs to the Council's deliberations on Burundi from the inclusive dialogue fostered by the Commission, while noting that more could be done by the Commission to enhance awareness of Security Council resolution 2248 (2015), promote inclusive national dialogue and highlight the importance of socioeconomic development in Burundi. With regard to Liberia, participants had noted the Commission's collaboration with the Government and United Nations officials on the ground at a crucial phase in the drawdown of UNMIL and had stressed the need to update the relevant statement of mutual commitment in line with the country's long-term peacebuilding needs. Lastly, they had noted the Commission's collaboration with other lead departments to contribute a specific peacebuilding perspective to the discussion on the Central African Republic.

52. To reinforce the Commission's advisory role, some participants had suggested that informal dialogues should be held with various actors, including "pen holders"; members of delegations holding the presidency of the Council, specifically on the planning of forward activities, including field visits, to allow the Commission to provide timely advice; and political coordinators and experts, ahead of the Council's consideration of the situations in the countries concerned, to ensure that peacebuilding objectives were integrated in its deliberations. Lastly, it was noted that the Commission's diverse membership and flexible

outreach to regional and subregional organizations could complement the Council's work in country-specific contexts.

53. The outcome of the ten-year review of the peacebuilding architecture must be operationalized to enhance the work and impact of the Commission, including its relations with the Security Council. The Commission must continue to leverage its unique capacities and membership structure to promote peacebuilding efforts in countries emerging from conflict.

54. **Mr. Mminele** (South Africa) said that South Africa had strongly supported the Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund since their establishment. National ownership of peacebuilding efforts was critical for creating sustainable institutions, particularly in the aftermath of conflict. International peacebuilding efforts must therefore build on the short-, medium-, and long-term priorities that post-conflict countries had identified for themselves. He welcomed the emphasis of the Commission's report (PBC/9/OC/L.1) on the critical role that the Peacebuilding Fund had played in facilitating efforts to address the risks posed by the Ebola crisis to the overarching peacebuilding gains made by the three most-affected countries, as well as its focus on the effective collaboration between country-specific configurations and regional actors, including the African Union. Given the heightened vulnerability of national institutions in the immediate aftermath of conflict, peacekeeping operations in post-conflict countries should focus specific attention on capacity- and institution-building in the phase following the conclusion of peace agreements. Lastly, the peacebuilding architecture must continue to be improved with a view to enhancing its impact on the lives of those affected by conflict.

55. **Mr. Awad** (Egypt) said that practical steps must be taken to improve the Commission's working methods in order to broaden ownership of peacebuilding efforts among Member States. To that end, he commended the efforts of the outgoing Chair to encourage sharing of workplans among the Commission's members, which had greatly strengthened coordination within the Organizational Committee, and urged country configurations to submit workplans with proposed dates for their planned activities during the Commission's tenth session. He likewise underscored the importance of the stocktaking exercise proposed by the incoming Chair for assessing the fulfilment and continued relevance of the objectives set forth in the Commission's workplan, and suggested that Vice-Chairs should play a more prominent role in ensuring the implementation of certain tasks delineated in the workplan. Furthermore, the Chair should consider, in conjunction with Vice-Chairs and the President of the General Assembly, how the Commission could contribute to the upcoming high-level thematic debate on the United Nations, peace and security. Lastly, the concept of Peacebuilding Commission "agenda countries" must be redefined to reflect a more flexible approach to addressing countries' needs and requests for advice outside the context of country-specific configurations. The incoming Chair should thus build on the efforts undertaken by the outgoing Chair to respond to specific concerns raised by individual countries, as had been done in the cases of Somalia and Papua New Guinea, with a view to making the Commission's approach more accommodating to a broader variety of countries.

56. Members of the Commission that were also members of the Security Council were responsible for ensuring that peacebuilding priorities were mainstreamed in the Council's consideration of the situations in post-conflict countries, a process that should be greatly facilitated in 2016 by the fact that five non-permanent members of the Council, in addition to the five permanent members, were also members of the Organizational Committee. His delegation would help to strengthen the periodic stocktaking exercise of the Commission's advisory function with respect to the Council and welcomed more efficient use of informal dialogues between the Commission and the Council, including on country-specific situations. Lastly, the Council would greatly benefit from the Commission's targeted advice, as appropriate, on ongoing political processes in configuration countries, including Burundi, Guinea-Bissau and the drawdown of UNMIL in Liberia.

57. **Mr. Rakhmetullin** (Kazakhstan) said that the Commission, as one of the key United Nations bodies supporting countries emerging from conflict, had a greater and more critical role to play than ever before. Kazakhstan welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the work of the United Nations, especially in relation to the three fundamental pillars of peace and security, development and human rights on which the Organization had been founded, and was determined to

work with other members of the Commission to help conflict-affected countries not only to overcome setbacks but also to implement the recommendations of such historic processes as the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, the review by the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, the high-level review of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. As a young nation, Kazakhstan had learned much from the work of regional political and security organizations such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Collective Security Treaty Organization in the fields of preventive diplomacy, peaceful conflict resolution, and consolidation, stability and development. It stood ready to work with other members of the Organizational Committee to effectively implement the Commission's mandate.

58. **Mr. Okamura** (Japan) said that the innovative initiatives introduced during the ninth session, including the holding of ad hoc country-specific meetings, had invigorated the Commission, and he was confident in the continued success of its work under the new Chair. In December 2015, the Working Group on Lessons Learned, which Japan had chaired during the ninth session, had presented a report entitled "Institution-building: the challenges for the United Nations system", which contained some valuable lessons. He trusted that the Working Group would continue building on its work under the able chairmanship of the Republic of Korea.

59. As a current member of the Security Council, Japan recognized the importance of peacebuilding for the issues on the Council's agenda. In Somalia, for example, counter-terrorism measures required the establishment of a police structure and the rule of law. In addition, the new Somali Government needed the support of the international community as it sought to establish its authority and show the people that it was capable of ensuring peace. In Guinea, the holding of peaceful elections had demonstrated the importance of regaining the people's confidence in political institutions through inclusive dialogue. In Burundi, there was a pressing need to identify how to prevent a possible conflict. Democratic elections were not the goal of peace but rather the starting point of the Commission's work; the newly elected Government must now show Burundians that it was capable of ensuring peace, justice and the rule of law, and gain the people's trust by promoting their welfare.

60. **Mr. Lambertini** (Italy) said it was important to recall that humanitarian and peacebuilding activities were closely related, since conflict prevention and post-conflict recovery were major aspects of humanitarian work. As a result of the ongoing review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, the Commission should reshape itself in order to enhance the Organization's overall capacity in the field of preventive diplomacy. There was a growing need for wider international cooperation among United Nations organizations and agencies, including the World Bank and other regional and international financial institutions, with a view to more coherent action in conflict prevention.

61. Regarding the Commission's working methods, his delegation agreed with the proposal to enhance the clarity of its objectives and the predictability of its activities, and welcomed the 2016 proposed workplan considered at the current meeting.

62. The Commission needed to seek alternative resources to finance its activities, including from the private sector and through South-South cooperation. In that regard, Italy had decided to resume its contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund in 2016. It was committed to active engagement with the Commission and was also assessing possible cooperation with the Peacebuilding Support Office in 2016 to promote the role of women and youth as key actors for sustaining peace.

63. **Mr. Morales López** (Colombia) said that the Commission had made significant progress in diversifying its working methods in 2015. Furthermore, the discussion on peacebuilding trends and threats in West Africa had been particularly useful and his delegation hoped that, in 2016, the Commission would be able to address some of the challenges identified. The review of the peacebuilding architecture, the report submitted by the Advisory Group of Experts (A/69/968-S/2015/490) and the draft resolution currently being negotiated on the review all pointed towards a unified and coherent vision of peacebuilding in which attention must be given to all stages of conflict. From that perspective, prevention was crucial to prevent any lapse or relapse into conflict, with all the associated human and economic costs. His country's own experience was that lasting peace was achieved through peacebuilding before,

during and after a conflict. For that reason, following the conclusion of the final peace agreement with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia — People's Army, his Government had continued to work tirelessly for a stable and lasting peace. The adoption of Security Council resolution 2261 (2016), establishing a political mission at his Government's request, showed the extent to which Colombia had placed its confidence in the international community and the United Nations, as well as reflecting the Organization's commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes through solutions aligned with national processes and realities on the ground. His delegation hoped that Colombia would in future years be able to draw on its own success in achieving peace to contribute lessons learned that would be helpful to other countries engaged in peacebuilding efforts. His delegation supported the 2016 workplan and stood ready to participate actively in the Commission's work.

64. Peacebuilding mandates must be accompanied by predictable and sustainable financing. Bearing in mind that international mechanisms were finding it hard to guarantee appropriate and sustainable support, Member States must reach a solid commitment to seek new sources of funding and strengthen existing resources, including the Peacebuilding Fund. In addition, partnerships with international financial institutions and regional and subregional organizations should be further strengthened. Lastly, the Commission's approach should be aligned with the 2030 Agenda, the integrated nature of which meant that all the Sustainable Development Goals were equally important. A successful peacebuilding process, based on national ownership and national capacity-building, was the first step towards ending conflict and establishing fairer and more prosperous societies.

65. **Mr. Poveda Brito** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that his delegation took note of the Commission's report on the work of its ninth session and stood ready to participate in implementing the 2016 workplan. During the Venezuelan presidency of the Security Council in February 2016, his delegation was organizing an open debate on the theme "Post-conflict peacebuilding: review of the peacebuilding architecture", as part of the peacebuilding review process under way in the Security Council and the General Assembly. The debate would focus on how the Security Council, and the Organization as a whole, addressed peacebuilding as an important means of achieving a safe and peaceful world.

66. **Mr. Kazi** (Bangladesh) said that his delegation appreciated the clarity of vision evident in the incoming Chair's letter of intent. Although that letter did not refer directly to the need for a change of mindset about peacebuilding, as discussed in the report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture, it implicitly hinted that such work would be attempted. His delegation looked forward to further reflection in that regard by the Organizational Committee.

67. While the letter of intent mentioned the need for action to review the Commission's working methods and rules of procedure, the workplan did not refer directly to the rules of procedure. It seemed likely, however, that the draft resolution on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture would call for the rules of procedure to be revisited, particularly in view of the interest in expanding the Commission's mandate beyond countries currently on its agenda. The issue of the rules of procedure would also be important in order to examine the interface between the Organizational Committee and the country-specific work streams. Although not much had been stipulated about the mechanisms for country-specific meetings in the resolutions establishing the Peacebuilding Commission, those configurations were now doing very useful work; it was, however, important to ensure a seamless interface between their activities and the work of the Organizational Committee.

68. His delegation appreciated the Chair's intention to build synergies with other principal organs of the United Nations. With regard to the Security Council, the report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture and the associated draft resolution being negotiated created an opportunity to enhance the relevance and visibility of the Commission in the context of the Council's work. It was the Commission's responsibility to seize that opportunity and provide targeted advice that the Security Council would find useful for its work. Lastly, his delegation saw value in continuing with the periodic stocktaking of the Commission's advisory function with respect to the Security Council and welcomed the Egyptian delegation's interest in further improving that exercise.

69. **Mr. Heen** (Nigeria) said that his delegation appreciated the dynamic and proactive approach taken by Sweden during its term as Chair and hoped that the Commission would continue to work with increasing flexibility in the coming year. His delegation also welcomed the letter of intent circulated by the

incoming Chair, particularly his emphasis on the need to strengthen regional peacebuilding, and looked forward to the establishment of strong partnerships between the Commission and regional organizations such as the African Union, ECOWAS and the European Union. Nigeria had always been at the forefront of peace and security, not only at the global level but also in regional and subregional efforts, and would continue to identify with the Commission's regional efforts, especially in Guinea-Bissau. A special envoy appointed by the President of Nigeria following the elections in Guinea-Bissau was continually engaging with that country's leadership to ensure that it continued to move forward.

70. National ownership of peacebuilding activities must be encouraged, with a particular focus on such areas as fostering security sector reform, supporting national dialogue, promoting community reconciliation, enhancing women's empowerment and addressing youth unemployment.

71. **Mr. Grout-Smith** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation welcomed the flexibility shown by the Commission, during the Swedish delegation's term as Chair, with regard to the Organizational Committee and the formulation of the country-specific configurations, as well as in terms of the ways the Commission had briefed the Security Council and contributed to the review of the peacebuilding architecture. His delegation welcomed the vision set out in the new Chair's letter of intent and echoed his call for increased resources for peacebuilding. He encouraged all Member States to provide voluntary contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund, which was one of the most effective parts of the entire United Nations peacebuilding architecture. That said, it was also important to ensure that existing programmes and resources were better used in order to support peace. The Commission had a critical role to play in bringing together United Nations agencies, Member States, the World Bank, the European Union and other actors to ensure that all resources were aligned behind sustaining peace.

72. The year 2016 would be an important one for the Commission. A major theme of the World Humanitarian Summit would be the need to reduce the level of humanitarian need, which entailed preventing and reducing conflict. Moreover, the forthcoming high-level plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants would consider how to reduce some of the push factors behind refugee and migrant flows, which was also a key task for the Commission.

73. **Ms. Amadeo** (United States of America) emphasized the importance of allowing the countries on the Commission's agenda to share their perspective on its objectives and activities and to propose adjustments based on their needs and priorities. Her delegation supported the priorities outlined by the incoming Chair and encouraged him to ensure the implementation of the recommendations emanating from the ongoing review of the peacebuilding architecture in order to strengthen the impact of United Nations peacebuilding efforts in post-conflict States. Likewise, the Commission's work should support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, particularly Goal 16.

74. **Mr. Sheikh** (India) commended the successful completion of the first phase of the review of the peacebuilding architecture, the response to the Ebola outbreak and the country-specific work conducted under the outgoing Chair. As the critical link between peacekeeping and sustainable peace, peacebuilding was essential for rebuilding institutions and infrastructure in nations torn by civil war in order to prevent their relapse into conflict. While external guidance was necessary to the process, it should not be offered at the cost of the national agenda. National Governments bore the primary responsibility for identifying peacebuilding priorities and strategies in order to ensure their ownership of the process.

75. The Commission had made important efforts to mainstream peacebuilding in post-conflict countries. Although the Security Council had been increasingly concerned with peacebuilding in recent years, its deeper engagement was critical to ensure lasting peace in those countries assisted by the Commission. Peacebuilding initiatives were most successful when they were anchored within a larger peace process. That required the international community to provide predictable resources over an extended period of time.

76. **The Chair** said that the representatives of Liberia, Burundi and Sierra Leone had asked to participate in the discussion of the item under consideration.

77. *At the invitation of the Chair, Mr. Patten (Liberia), Mr. Shingiro (Burundi) and Mr. Koroma (Sierra Leone) took places at the Committee table.*

78. **Mr. Patten** (Liberia) said that he was grateful for the Commission's work over the last year in assisting Liberia with its post-Ebola recovery efforts. He also commended the efforts of the outgoing Chair to facilitate a discussion on the Commission's

relationship with regional organizations. His Government's engagement with the Liberia country-specific configuration had been useful and it was to be hoped that the revised statement of mutual commitment prepared following the recent technical mission to Liberia would soon be adopted. The Peacebuilding Support Office and the Peacebuilding Fund had been the bedrock of the Commission's work in Liberia in 2015. He looked forward to enhanced engagement and continued progress going forward.

79. **Mr. Shingiro** (Burundi) welcomed the election of the incoming Chair, who, as a representative of the neighbouring country of Kenya, had particular knowledge of the situation in Burundi and the surrounding region. He also welcomed the emphasis placed by the outgoing Chair on inclusiveness, national ownership, cooperation with regional and subregional organizations and flexible working methods.

80. Tensions in Burundi could only be resolved by political means, as alternative methods risked yielding unwanted outcomes. Burundi supported the mediation efforts of Uganda and the good-offices role of the Special Adviser on Conflict Prevention appointed by the Secretary-General. The recent visit to Burundi by members of the Security Council had been crucial in enabling United Nations officials to witness the situation on the ground, which was frequently misrepresented by the media. He therefore called for more frequent country visits by country-specific configurations and configuration Chairs. In that connection, Burundi would spare no effort in arranging opportunities for the Chair of the Burundi configuration to meet with peacebuilding partners during his upcoming visit.

81. **Mr. Koroma** (Sierra Leone) said that his delegation supported the incoming Chair's aim of building the Commission's capacity to mobilize resources for proactive interventions by working with regional organizations, civil society and other non-State actors. He also appreciated the willingness of Canada to work closely with his Government to implement national priority plans based on the Sierra Leone Agenda for Prosperity, and looked forward to the configuration Chair's upcoming visit.

82. Sierra Leone had experienced no significant threats to peace and security in the two decades following the end of its civil war. It was hoped that the country would remain on that trajectory, drawing on lessons learned from the experience of war, with the understanding that peace was a prerequisite for attracting development partners and investors to the country. Although progress had been made in the area of governance, the Government continued to focus on reducing a number of risk factors for relapse into conflict. In particular, it was addressing the issues of youth unemployment and education in order to harness the potential of the country's growing youth population, which was particularly susceptible to recruitment by terrorist groups. It was also working to eradicate poverty by ensuring that national resources were equitably distributed among the population. The Government likewise continued to promote freedom of political expression by dissenting political groups, including via media outlets, to prevent them from resorting to unethical or violent behaviour. He hoped that the upcoming 2018 elections would emulate the success of the previous three elections, which had been recognized as free and fair by the international community. In that connection, a population census had been successfully completed and the national electoral committee had developed an election road map in consultation with all relevant stakeholders. Similarly, the country's constitutional review committee was working closely with all stakeholders, including political organizations.

83. **Ms. Wang** Dan (China) reiterated her delegation's support for the Commission's work, particularly in the areas of subregional cooperation, Ebola recovery and issues relating to women and youth.

84. **Mr. van de Beek** (Observer for the European Union) welcomed the outgoing Chair's flexible approach in developing the Commission's gender strategy and strengthening its workplan. He likewise welcomed the incoming Chair's emphasis on the need to operationalize the outcome of the review of the peacebuilding architecture and to ensure predictable financing for peacebuilding through new partnerships. The European Union had jointly funded several of the Commission's projects through contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund and would seek out further opportunities to do so in the future.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.